

REMARKS

Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

The gracious allowance of claims 21 and 22 is further acknowledged and appreciated by the Applicants.

The indication by the Examiner that claims 7-10 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is further noted and appreciated.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 21 and 22 have been allowed.

Claims 1-6 and 11-16 stand rejected.

Claims 7-10 and 17-20 are objected to.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitation contained in dependent claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Claim 7 has been cancelled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to further include the limitation contained in dependent claim 17, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Claim 17 has been cancelled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

The Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 11 are now in condition for allowance, as they are equivalent to dependent claims 7 and 17 being rewritten into independent form. A reconsideration for allowance of these claims is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

The Applicants further respectfully submit that dependent claims 8-10 and 18-20 are likewise allowable, since they depend respectively on independent claims 1 and 11. A reconsideration for allowance of these claims is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5, 11-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter APA).

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent claims 7 and 17, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

Claims 2-3, 5, 12-13 and 15 dependent on claims 1 and 11, respectively, and therefore are likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of these claims is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over APA.

Claims 6 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over APA in view of Hunter '816.

Claims 4 and 6 depend on the newly amended independent claim 1, which the Applicants believe is allowable. Claims 14 and 16 depend on the newly amended independent claim 11, which the Applicants believe is allowable.

A reconsideration for allowance of claims 4, 6, 14 and 16 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, i.e. claims 1-6, 8-16 and 18-20, are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is respectfully solicited.

In the event that the present invention is not in a condition for allowance for any other reasons, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the applicants' representative at his office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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